

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 DOEE-00 /115 W
-----115442 150833Z /17

P 150822Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6135
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS STRAND AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

GENEVA FOR TOM SAYLOR

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:EAGR, ETRD, JA, US
SUBJECT:STRAUSS/USHIBA FOLLOW-UP:BEEF TEAM

1. SUMMARY: MAF HAS SCHEDULED FULL FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH BEEF MISSION FOR MARCH 16 AND AGREES TO INFORMAL SIDE DISCUSSIONS INCLUDING SELECTED MEMBERS OF MISSION AND MAF OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN INFORMAL LUNCHEON MEETING BETWEEN AGATT AND SANO, SENIOR COUNSELOR, ANIMAL INDUSTRY DUREAU, MAF, SANO AGREED TO CHAIR FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH U.S. BEEF MISSION MARCH 16. HE ALSO AGREED THAT INFORMAL SIDE MEETINGS WITH SELECTED MEMBERS OF MISSION AND MOTAI AND OTHERS IN MAF WOULD BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION OF STRAUSS/USHIBA COMMUNIQUE COMMITMENTS.

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3. SANO STUCK TO LINE THAT LIPC AS THE MEAT PRICE STABILIZATION AGENCY CAN ONLY ALLOCATE INCREASED QUANTITIES WHEN INCREASED DEMAND IS INDICATED THROUGH STRONGER BUYING INTEREST AT LIPC AUCTIONS. HE SAID THAT FOR THIS REASON MAF HAD EXPECTED PRIMARY OBJECTIVE U.S. MEAT MISSION WOULD BE TO MEET WITH BUYERS AND POTENTIAL BUYERS IN EFFORT TO GENERATE BUYING PRESSURE AT THE AUCTIONS; THUS SIGNALLING

TO LIPC THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL IMPORTS OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF.

4. HE WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE LAG TIME BETWEEN INCREASED DEMAND SIGNALS AND ACTUAL IMPORTS. HOWEVER, IT CAME OUT IN LATER MEETING WITH LIPC (REPORTED SEPARATELY) THAT FOR NEW PRODUCTS, I.E., CUTS NEW TO THE JAPANESE MARKET, LAG TIME WOULD BE 3 TO 5 MONTHS. FOR CUTS NORMALLY STOCKED BY LIPC LAG TIME WOULD BE SHORTER.

5. AS TO THE ADDITIONALITY ASPECT OF THE JAPANESE COMMITMENT, SANO BELIEVES THAT ALL THE INCREASE COULD BE ADDITIONAL TO WHAT WOULD HAVE NORMALLY BEEN IMPORTED UNDER GENERAL QUOTA, BUT THAT ADDITIONALITY WOULD BE REDUCED TO EXTENT HIGH QUALITY BEEF REPLACED LOWER QUALITY CUTS.

6. SANO CAUTIONED AGAINST A DEFINITION OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF THAT WOULD OBVIOUSLY EXCLUDE OTHER EXPORTING COUNTRIES SUCH AS AUSTRALIA. HE SAID MAF MUST CONSULT OTHER EXPORTERS BEFORE AGREEING TO FORMAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF.

7. COMMENT. SPECIFICATIONS FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF SUBMITTED EARLIER BY EMBASSY TO MAF FOR REVIEW DO NOT EXCLUDE OTHER EXPORTING COUNTRIES AND THIS WILL BE POINTED OUT IN INFORMAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT MAF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEELS ANY REAL OBLIGATIONS TO CONSULT WITH THE AUSTRALIANS AND OTHERS ON SPECIFICATIONS AND THIS QUESTION WILL BE COVERED FULLY DURING THE COURSE OF THE REMAINING MEETINGS. SHERMAN

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